### IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE MIDDLE DISTRICT OF ALABAMA NORTHERN DIVISION

GINGER CRAVEY, as Administratrix of the Estate of RILEY CRAVEY, deceased,	)
Plaintiff,	) Civil Action No. 2:06-CV-191-WKW
v.	<ul> <li>(Removed from the Circuit Court of</li> <li>Covington County, Alabama,</li> <li>formerly Civ. Action No. CV-06-22)</li> </ul>
TMA FOREST PRODUCTS, et al.,	)
Defendants.	) ) _)

## **DEFENDANTS' JOINT OPPOSITION TO** PLAINTIFF'S MOTION TO CONSOLIDATE

Defendants Pactiv Corporation ("Pactiv") and Louisiana-Pacific Corporation ("Louisiana-Pacific") jointly oppose Plaintiff's "Motion to Consolidate." Defendants state the following grounds for their opposition:

1.

This Court has set a Status Conference in this matter for May 23, 2006.

2.

Pactiv and Louisiana-Pacific each filed a Motion to Dismiss on March 22, 2006. Both motions seek dismissal of Plaintiff's Complaint in whole or in part or, in the alternative, for a more definite statement of Plaintiff's claims as to each Defendant. These motions are currently pending.

This Court's rulings on Defendants' motions will determine which of Plaintiff's claims, if any, will remain in this lawsuit against each Defendant. The Court's rulings will also likely impact the scope of discovery needed. Accordingly, Plaintiff's "Motion to Consolidate" is premature given Defendants' pending Motions to Dismiss.

4.

Moreover, Plaintiff's "Motion to Consolidate" ambiguously requests consolidation of this case with nine others "for purposes of discovery and pre-trial motions." *See* Pl. Motion at p. 1. Without additional details, Plaintiff's broad request does not reasonably indicate the scope of Plaintiff's proposed consolidation, the specific discovery to be consolidated, or what "pre-trial motions" Plaintiff seeks to have consolidated. Plaintiff's Motion also provides no suggestion as to how the requested consolidation would operate, either procedurally or as a practical matter. Consequently, Plaintiff's Motion does not permit a meaningful response.

5.

In view of the circumstances described above, Defendants respectfully request that this Court defer any ruling on Plaintiff's Motion to Consolidate so that the parties and Court may discuss any potential consolidation at the Status Conference. Defendants further request the opportunity to submit a further response to Plaintiff's "Motion to Consolidate," if necessary, in a timely fashion following the Status Conference.

This 17th day of May, 2006.

/s/ H. Thomas Wells, Jr.
H. Thomas Wells, Jr.
Alabama Bar No. WEL004
John A. Earnhardt
Alabama Bar No. EAR006
Counsel for Defendant Pactiv Corporation

### OF COUNSEL:

MAYNARD, COOPER & GALE, P.C. 1901 Sixth Avenue North 2400 AmSouth/Harbert Plaza Birmingham, AL 35203

Tel: (205) 254-1000 Fax: (205) 254-1999

twells@maynardcooper.com jearnhardt@maynardcooper.com

/s/ Dennis R. Bailey\_\_

Dennis R. Bailey ASB No. 4845-I71D R. Austin Huffaker ASB NO. 3422-F55R

Counsel for Defendant Louisiana-Pacific Corporation

#### OF COUNSEL:

RUSHTON, STAKELY, JOHNSON, & GARRETT, P.A.

184 Commerce Street Post Office Box 270 Montgomery, AL 36101 Tel: (334) 206-3100

Fax: (334) 262-6277 <u>drb@rsjg.com</u> (Bailey) rah2@rsjg.com (Huffaker)

# **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I hereby certify that on this 17th day of May, 2006, I filed the foregoing via the CM/ECF system which will send notice of said filing to the following:

W. Eason Mitchell

Gregory A. Cade

Fred R. DeLeon

W. Lee Gresham, III

H. Thomas Wells, Jr.

John A. Earnhardt

E. Bryan Nichols

/s/ Dennis R. Bailey Of Counsel